

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 HEW-06 AID-05

OIC-02 OES-07 AF-10 ARA-10 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7652

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS GENEVA 4094

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WHO

SUBJECT: WHO - 60TH SESSION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

REF: GENEVA 3753

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. 30-MEMBER EXECUTIVE BOARD (EB) HELD ITS ROUTINE POST-WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY SESSION MAY 23-24. US REPRESENTATIVE WAS ELECTED TO PROGRAM COMMITTEE. EB AGREED TO STUDY AT JANUARY SESSION, FOR POSSIBLE USE BY WHO, UNESCO'S "CONSENSUS

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COMMITTEE" MECHANISM FOR DIFFUSING DIVISIVE POLITICAL ISSUES. EB BOTTLED RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING TO NEXT ASSEMBLY ADOPTION OF CERTAIN REDUCTIONS IN NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS AND TRANSLATIONS THEREOF, SO AS TO INCREASE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION. DECIDED ON DATES OF NEXT EB AND WHO MEETINGS. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER ELECTING NEW CHAIRMAN (BUTERA, OF RWANDA), EB DISCUSSED

AT LENGTH PROS AND CONS OF NEW METHOD OF WORK WHICH ASSEMBLY FOLLOWED THIS YEAR TO SPEED DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET. CONSENSUS WAS THAT NEW SYSTEM SHOULD BE RETAINED BUT COULD STAND FURTHER IMPROVEMENT. DG MAHLER UNDERTOOK TO COME UP WITH SUMMARY PAPER OF DISCUSSIONS IN EB ON SUBJECT FOR CONSIDERATION AT JANUARY SESSION OF EB. HE ASKED WHETHER HE MIGHT NOT ALSO INCLUDE A PROPOSAL FOR CREATION OF A 30-MEMBER AD HOC "CONSENSUS COMMITTEE", ALONG LINES OF ONE USED BY UNESCO AT RECENT MEETING IN NAIROBI. IDEA WOULD BE FOR WHA'S GENERAL COMMITTEE TO APPOINT SUCH AN AD HOC GROUP TO MASSAGE CERTAIN POLITICAL ISSUES IN PRIVATE. (HE CITED SUCH RECENT OR CURRENT ISSUES AS VIETNAM ASSESSMENT, LANGUAGE/DOCUMENTATION, AND CYPRUS REFUGEES) BEFORE THEY COME BEFORE REGULAR COMMITTEE AND ASSEMBLY. DG SUGGESTED SUCH MECHANISM MIGHT LESSEN DANGEROUS AND TIME CONSUMING CONFRONTATION SITUATIONS IN ASSEMBLY. FRESTA (ANGOLA) AND KLIVAROVA (CZECHOSLOVAKIA) VOICED RESERVATIONS. FRESTA SAID HE WAS ALREADY MEMBER OF THREE CONSENSUS COMMITTEES AT WHA -- G-77, GROUP OF OAU AND EB ITSELF -- AND HE DID NOT SEE UTILITY OF A FOURTH. KLIVAROVA AGREED AND SAID PROPOSAL WOULD ONLY COMPLICATE WHA STRUCTURE. HOWEVER, MAJORITY OF EB MEMBERS (INCLUDING US REP) SAID IDEA WAS WORTH EXAMINING, AND OS IT WILL APPEAR ON AGENDA OF JANUARY SESSION.

3. CHAIRMAN BUTERA THEN PROCEEDED TO DISPOSE OF NUMBER OF AGENDA ITEMS INVOLVING NOMINATIONS TO VARIOUS COMMITTEES. HE FOLLOWED TIME HONORED CUSTOM OF ANNOUNCING VACANCIES, PROPOSING NAMES TO FILL THEM (FROM LIST WHICH SECRETARIAT HAD HELPED HIM COMPILE), AND THEN ASKING IF THERE WERE FURTHER NOMINATIONS FROM FLOOR. THERE WERE NONE, AND HE MADE RAPID PROGRESS.

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FOR EXAMPLE, APPOINTMENT OF US, CANADA AND YUGOSLAVIA TO KEY 9-MEMBER PROGRAM COMMITTEE TOOK ABOUT 90 SECONDS. HOWEVER, BEFORE BUTERA GOT TO BOTTOM OF LIST OF COMMITTEES, KLIVAROVA (CZECHOSLOVAKIA) BROKE IN WITH COMPLAINT THAT DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES NOT BEING FOLLOWED. THIS PROMPTED LONG DISCUSSION OF PROPOSAL PRESENTED BY JAKOVLJEVIC (YUGOSLAVIA) THAT HENCEFORTH EB ELECT A NOMINATING COMMITTEE TO PROPOSE NAMES TO FILL THESE VACANCIES. SUPPORT FOR PROPOSAL WAS STRONG AT FIRST, BUT DIED AWAY AS REALIZATION GREW THAT EXTRA TIME AND CONSIDERABLE EXTRA WORK BY SOME EB MEMBERS WOULD BE ENTAILED AND THAT PRESENT SYSTEM, AFTER ALL, DOES PERMIT NOMINATIONS FROM FLOOR. MOREOVER, IT HAS FOLLOWED PRINCIPLES OF CAREFUL "MIX" OF OLD AND NEW MEMBERS OF EB AS WELL AS EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.

4. EB SPENT SEVERAL HOURS ON SECOND DAY DEBATING QUESTION OF DOCUMENTATION AND LANGUAGES. THIS SUBJECT HAD EARLIER BEEN TACKLED BY AD HOC COMMITTEE WHOSE REPORT TO EB INDICATED DEFINITE SPLIT AMONG MEMBERS. DG MAHLER WARNED EB BEFORE MEMBERS HAD GOTTEN VERY FAR INTO THEIR DISCUSSION THAT, WHATEVER EB'S

DECISION ON THIS DELICATE SUBJECT, THE ISSUE WILL GENERATE GREAT DEAL OF "POLITICAL ENERGY" AT NEXT WHA. EB AGREED TO RECOMMEND THAT NEXT WHA REPLACE "OFFICIAL RECORDS" SERIES BY CHEAPER (NON-SERIATUM) PUBLICATION. IN FACE OF STIFF RESISTANCE BY GDR, CZECH AND CUBAN REPS, EB FINALLY ADOPTED RESOLUTION (18 (US)-0-4) ALSO RECOMMENDING THAT VERBATIM RECORDS OF WHA AND SUMMARY RECORES OF EB AND WHA'S MAIN COMMITTEES BE PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH, BUT WITH LANGUAGE IN WHICH SPEECH WAS DELIVERED ALSO INCLUDED.

5. EB AGREED ON FOLLOWING DATES. EB'S PROGRAM COMMITTEE WILL MEET IN GENEVA OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 4, 1977. 61ST EB WILL MEET IN GENEVA JANUARY 11, 1978 AND RUN UNTIL ABOUT JANUARY 27. 31ST WHA WILL MEET MAY 8, 1978, WITH ITS CLOSING DATE TO BE DETERMINED BY 61ST EB. SORENSEN

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